By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for restraint of Killing, Dressing, and Eating of Flesh in Lent, or on Fish-dayes appointed by the Law, to be hereafter obserued by all sorts of people.

WHereas diuers good Lawes and Statutes haue heretofore, with great care and prouidence, been made and enacted for the due obseruation of Lent, and other dayes appointed for Fish-dayes, aswell for the sparing and increase of Flesh-victuall, as for the maintenance of the Naule and shipping of this Realme, by the encouragement of Fishermen to goe to the Seas for the taking of Fish, which Lawes and politique Constitutions, haue from time to time been seconded and quickened by sundry Proclamations, and other Actes and Ordinances of State in the times of Our Royall Predecessors; And whereas, notwithstanding so many good Prouisions heretofore had, and made in that kinde, wee haue obserued, that the inordinate liberty vsually taken by all sorts of people to Kill, Dresse, and Eate Flesh in the Lent season, and on other dayes and times prohibited, is become so inueterate an euill, that it will require more then ordinary care to suppresse the same;

Wee therefore, much affecting the reformation of so great and growing an euill, which is so great an enemy to the plenty of this Our Kingdome, haue thought fit thus timely (the better to take away all pretences of excuse) to expresse Our Selfe, and Our Royall Commandement in this behalfe, whereof, without future declaration of Our pleasure in this kinde, wee shall expect, and doe require from all Our louing Subiects, that due notice bee taken, and that a strict and continued obedience and conformitie bee yeelded thereunto, both for the present, and in all succeeding times,

And therefore wee doe straitly charge and command all and euery person and persons whatsoeuer, to whome it may appertaine, carefully to prouide and see, that these Orders following may be duely obserued and put in execution, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such penalties as by the Lawes of this Our Realme may bee inflicted vpon the Offenders, for their contempt or neglect of Vs and Our Lawes, whereof wee shall shew Our Selfe most sensible.

And first, whereas wee finde, that the chiefest cause of these disorders hath growen from the

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Licences that haue beene granted to Butchers, to kill, and vtter Flesh contrary to Law, and that by Our Lawes, no Maior, Iustice of Peace, or other person of what degree or qualitie soeuer, can grant any Licence in this kinde; And that the Lords, and others of Our Priuie Counsell, doe by Our direction forbeare to graut the same, or giue way thereunto; Our will and pleasure is, vpon the penalties prouided by Law, and such further punishment to bee inflicted vpon the offenders, as shall be thought meet, that no such Licence shall bee granted for the killing, or vttering of Flesh; And that no Butcher, or other person whatsoeuer, doe by colour thereof, kill, vtter, or put to sale any Flesh contrary to the Lawes established and prouided in that behalfe.

And for the auoiding of such inconueniences hereafter, Our will and pleasure is, that the Lord Maior of our Citie of London, and euery other Officer and Iustice of peace, shall call before them, and send for the seruants of any Inholders, Victualers, Cookes, Alehousekeepers, Tauerners, & keepers of Ordinary tables, and such others that vtter Victuals, and to examine them vpon their corporall Oathes, what Flesh is, or hath beene during the Lent season, or other dayes prohibited by the Law, dressed, killed, vttered, or eaten in their houses, which if they shall refuse to do then to commit to prison the said seruants so refusing vpon their oaths to declare the trueth.

That the Lord Maior shall also yeerely before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders, keepers of Ordinary tables, Victuallers, Alehousekeepers, and Tauerners within the Citie and Liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or such persons as he shall thinke meete for that purpose; And shall take Recognizances with sufficient Sureties of euery of them in good summes of money, (viz.) One hundred pounds of the principall, and their sureties thirty pounds apeece, to Our vse, not to dresse any Flesh in their houses in the Lent time, or at any times prohibited, for any respect, nor suffer it to be eaten contrary to Law. The like Recognizance with Sureties, shalbe taken of the like parties vpon like penalties, by the Iustices of Peace of Our Citie of Westminster, and the Liberties therof; and euery of the said Recognizances to bee certified into Our Exchequer.

And for the Butchers and others that come with Victuall or Flesh out of the Countrey into the Cite, Our pleasure is, That the Lord Maior shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates and other like places in the Suburbs, where Flesh may be brought, to view and search, and to intercept the same: And if any of those watchmen shall be found negligent and corrupt in his Charge, then he to be committed to prison during the whole Lent.

And to the end that Fishermen may imploy themselues to Sea with better incouragement then heretofore, and that the Fishmongers may furnish themselues with such store from time to time hereafter, as shall be expedient, as well for the prouision of the Citie, as for selling the same at reasonable rates, We will that they take notice of this Our commandement and constant resolution for obseruance of Lent, and Fish dayes, both now and hereafter, as by Law is required.

And furthermore, as We thinke it fit, that euery man should bee a rule of order and abstinence in his owne house, aswell in respect of the publike, as of his priuate ease and benefit: So Wee straitly charge and command all Inholders, keepers of Ordinary tables, Victuallers, Alehousekeepers, and Tauerners, not to make any Supper for any person or persons whatsoeuer, vpon Friday nights, either in Lent, or out of Lent, nor to suffer any meat to be then dressed, vttered, sold, or eaten in their houses, vpon paine of such punishment, as is due to those that shall contemne Our Royall pleasure and Commandement.

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And forasmuch as vpon further aduice and consideration had, that the restraint of killing and dressing of Flesh is no sufficient remedie for the mischiefe, vnlesse there bee better care also taken to suppresse the vnlawfull and inordinate eating of Flesh in the time of Lent, and on other dayes and times prohibited, wherewith our Subiects haue accustomed themselues, rather for delicacie then for necessitie; It is therefore Our Royall will and pleasure, and accordingly, Wee doe hereby straitly prohibit and forbid all Our Subiects, of what degree or qualitie soeuer within this Realme, to eate any manner of Flesh in the time of Lent, or on other dayes now vsually obserued as Fish-dayes, without a speciall Licence first obtained from the Bishop of the Dioceſſe, or such other, as by the Law haue power to giue Licence in that behalfe, according to Our Lawes in that case prouided, (which wee will and command shall bee sparingly granted, and in cases of necessity onely,) vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and to be proceeded against, by Our Attourney Generall in Our Court of Starre-Chamber, as contemners of Our Royall Commandement. And vpon such further penalties, as by the Lawes and Statutes of Our Realme may be inflicted vpon those that shall wilfully offend in this kinde.

And as these Orders are to be executed in Our Citie of London, and places neereto the same, so it is Our expresse pleasure and commandement, That Our Iustices of Peace in all Shires within their Rule, and all other Maiors, Bayliffes and chiefe Officers in Townes Corporate, or in any Liberties within their precincts, shall cause the same to be obserued and performed in like maner; and that no maner of Toleration, Fauour, or Countenance to be vsed by any Iustice of Peace, or other Officer, contrary to the true meaning of this Our Proclamation, as both they that shall presume wittingly so to tolerate the offence, as also the partie himselfe offending, will answere the same at their vttermost perils; Our Commandement being, That Our Lawes in this case shall be hereafter seuerely executed vpon all Offenders whatsoeuer:

Further charging and commanding the Lord Maior of Our Citie of London, the Iustices of Assise in their seuerall Circuits, the Maiors & the chiefe Officers of all other Cities and Townes Corporate, Iustices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and all other Officers and Ministers within the seuerall Counties of this Our Realme, that they and euery of them fully obey this Our pleasure, and cause and compell the same to bee obeyed and executed by others, as they will answere the contrary at their vttermost perils.

And for the due execution of the premisses in all other the Counties of this Our Realme, as well as in Our Cities of London and Westminster; Wee doe hereby straitly charge and commaund all Our Iustices of Peace within the same Counties, as well within Liberties as without, that yeerely, and euery yeere hereafter before Lent, they cause to come and appeare before them all Inholders, Cookes, Tauerners, Alehouse-keepers, Butchers, & other Victuallers whatsoeuer, and to require & take of them to Our vse, seuerall Recognizances, with Sureties for the obseruation of the premisses, (viz.) The Principals in ten pounds, and their two Sureties in fiue pounds apiece; And if they shall refuse or neglect to enter into such Recognizances, then the sayd Iustices shall suppresse such persons so refusing, from Victualling any more, and shall also cause them forthwith to become bound by Recognizance with Sureties to Our vse, (viz.) The Principals in twenty pounds, and their two Sureties in tenne pounds apiece, not to victuall, or sell Beere or Ale from thenceforth; which if they shall refuse to doe, then the sayd Iustices to commit to prison all such persons so refusing to enter into such Recognizances, vntill they shall submit themselues, and become bound as aforesayd. And further, for all such Inholders, Cookes, Tauerners, Alehouse-keepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers, as shall not appeare before the sayd

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Iuſtices, as aforeſayd, That they may immediatly ſend forth their warrants, or grant Proceſſe againſt them, and euery of them ſo making default, to appeare and anſwere their contempt, at the next generall Seſſions of the Peace.

And further, for the more due puniſhment of Inholders, keepers of Ordinary tables, Cookes, Butchers, Victuallers, Alehouſe keepers, Tauerners, and ſuch like, who ſhall forfeit their Recognizances by killing or dreſſing of Fleſh, or ſuffering it to bee eaten in their houſes in the Lent time, and other Fiſh dayes; And to the end that the ſame may bee alwell taken in due forme of Law, as duely certified into Our Exchequer, Wee doe will and require all Iuſtices of Peace, alwell within Liberties as without, That at ſuch times as they ſhall meete within their ſeuerall Diuiſions, for the taking of ſuch Recognizances, that they giue notice to the Clerkes of the Peace, or their Deputies, to attend them for that purpoſe; Of whom wee will require a ſtrict account for the legall taking and returning of the ſame Recognizances into Our ſayd Exchequer.

And becauſe theſe directions are for better obſeruation of Order, and due keeping of the Lent, according to Our Lawes, which Our Miniſters and Officers are to ſee executed of office, without making the ſame grieuous to Our people, by taking of exceſſiue Fees for their entring into Recognizances to obſerue theſe orders, whereof many haue complained: Wee therefore ſtraitly charge and command, That no Towne-Clerke, Clerke of the Peace, nor other Officer, ſhall, or doe preſume to demand, or take any Fee or reward, aboue the ſumme of twelue pence, for taking any ſuch Recognizances, as aforeſaid, nor ſhall giue any Fee or Reward for returning the ſame into Our Exchequer.

And laſtly, for that the Fiſhmongers (vpon the obſeruation of the aforeſaid Orders) may perhaps take occaſion thereby to inhance the prices, as well of Freſh, as of Sea-Fiſh, we doe therefore hereby further charge and command all Fiſhmongers whatſoeuer, That they ſel and vtter their Fiſh at moderate and vſuall rates and prices; And that all Iuſtices of Peace, Maiors, Bailiffes, and other Our Officers, aſwell within Liberties as without, to whom it ſhall appertaine, ſhall from time to time take ſuch Order with the ſaid Fiſhmongers, that Our Subiects be not grieued by any ſuch inhancement or increaſe of prices vpon Fiſh, vpon paine of Our high diſpleaſure, and ſuch further puniſhment as may be inflicted vpon them by Our Lawes.

Giuen at Our Court at White-hall, the eighteenth day of Ianuary, in the fift yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

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